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## Muriel Leuenberger

### Areas of Research

Neuroethics, Medical Ethics, Ethics of AI/Digital Ethics, Narrativism, Personal Identity, Authenticity, Philosophy of Mind, Genealogy

### Current Position

**Postdoctoral Hosted Research Fellow at the Oxford Uehiro Centre for Practical Ethics (OUC), Faculty of Philosophy, University of Oxford (GB)**

Project in medical ethics and ethics of AI/digital ethics on how personal information made available by technology (e.g., health trackers, neuroimaging, digital profiling) impact narrative identity.

Affiliated member of the Programme on the Ethics of Behavioural Influence and Prediction (EBIP)

Member of the Wellcome Centre for Ethics and Humanities (WEH)

Affiliated member of the SCR of St Hugh's College

Funded by a Postdoc.Mobility grant of the Swiss National Science Foundation, 08/2021 – 07/2023

### Education

03/2017 – 06/2021

**PhD in Philosophy**, University of Basel (CH)

**Defense:** 30/06/2021

**Grade:** Summa cum laude (top grade)

**Thesis:** Authenticity, Narrative and Neural Interventions

**Supervision:** Prof. Markus Wild (University of Basel), Prof. Marya Schechtman (University of Illinois at Chicago)

10/2013 – 05/2016

**Master of Arts** in Philosophy of Science and Technology, Technical University of Munich (DE)

**Grade:** 1.1 (1 is the top grade)

**Master thesis:** Deep Brain Stimulation and Authenticity

**Supervision:** Prof. Stefan Sellmaier (Ludwig-Maximilians-University Munich), Dr. Tobias Jung (Technical University of Munich)

09/2010 – 07/2013

**Bachelor of Science** in Nanoscience, University of Basel (CH)

Interdisciplinary program in biology, chemistry, physics and mathematics

**Grade:** 5.0 (6 is the top grade)

## Professional Experience

08/2021 – present	<b>Postdoctoral Hosted Research Fellow</b> , Uehiro Centre for Practical Ethics, University of Oxford
03/2017 – 06/2021	<b>PhD candidate in philosophy</b> , University of Basel Supervision: Prof. Markus Wild (University of Basel), Prof. Marya Schechtman (University of Illinois at Chicago)
08/2019 – 06/2021	<b>Affiliated member of the Institute for Bio- and Medical Ethics (IBMB)</b> , University of Basel
06/2018 – 12/2018	<b>Research residence at the University of Illinois at Chicago</b>
03/2015 – 06/2015	<b>Assistant, Ethics in the National Centre of Competence in Research <i>Molecular Systems Engineering</i> (NCCR-MSE)</b> , with Dr. Ralf Stutzki, University of Basel. An internship assessing the ethical challenges of research in this nation-wide research project with close to 100 researchers.
03/2015 – 06/2015	<b>Production assistant, Radio Kanal K</b> , Aarau. An internship fostering communication skills in which I was collaborating with people with a highly diverse social and cultural background.

## Grants, Awards, Fellowships

08/2023 – 07/2024	<b>Return grant</b> of the Swiss National Science Foundation (112'000 CHF).
08/2021 – 07/2023	<b>Postdoc.Mobility grant</b> of the Swiss National Science Foundation (120'200 CHF).
03/2021	<b>Antelope competitive career program for promising female researchers</b> , University of Basel (4'000 CHF, funded coaching opportunities).
10/2020	<b>Award for 2020 International Neuroethics Society Annual Meeting Top Abstracts</b> , <a href="#">published in AJOB Neuroscience</a> .
09/2020 – 06/2021	<b>Grant of the Research Fund for Excellent Junior Researchers</b> of the University of Basel (37'200 CHF).
10/2019	<b>Award for outstanding poster presentation</b> at the 2019 Annual Meeting of the International Neuroethics Society, Chicago.
06/2018 – 12/2018	<b>Mobility grant of the Swiss National Science Foundation</b> for a research residence at the University of Illinois at Chicago (10'400 CHF).
02/2017 – 09/2020	<b>Doc.CH grant of the Swiss National Science Foundation</b> (205'800 CHF).
05/2010	<b>Honorable Mention at the International Philosophy Olympiad</b> , Athens.
03/2010	<b>Winner of the Swiss Philosophy Olympiad</b> , Bern.

## Peer-Reviewed Publications

Ifode, Christian; Zorila, Alexandra; Vica, Constantin; Leuenberger, Muriel. "A life of our own': why authenticity is more than a condition for autonomy". Under review.

Leuenberger, Muriel. Forthcoming. "Technology, Personal Information, and Identity." *Techné: Research in Philosophy and Technology*.

Leuenberger, Muriel. 2022. "Memory Modification and Authenticity: A Narrative Approach." *Neuroethics* 15: 1-10. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1007/s12152-022-09489-9>  
(Fifth most downloaded paper in 2022 in the journal *Neuroethics*)

Leuenberger, Muriel. 2021. "Losing Meaning: Philosophical Reflections on Neural Interventions and their Influence on Narrative Identity." *Neuroethics* 14: 491-505. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1007/s12152-021-09469-5>

Leuenberger, Muriel. 2021. "Why Authenticity Hinges on Narrative Identity." *American Journal of Bioethics: Neuroscience* 12 (1): 43 - 45. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1080/21507740.2020.1866109>

Leuenberger, Muriel. 2021. "What is the Point of Being your True Self? A Genealogy of Essentialist Authenticity." *Philosophy* 96 (3): 409-431. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1017/S0031819121000012>

Leuenberger, Muriel. 2020. "In Defense of Narrative Authenticity." *Cambridge Quarterly of Healthcare Ethics* 29 (4): 656 - 667. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1017/S0963180120000407>

## Book Chapters

Leuenberger, Muriel. Forthcoming. "Should you let AI tell you who you are and what you want?" In: *Ethics of AI* (working title). Edited by David Edmonds.

Leuenberger, Muriel. Forthcoming. "Authenticity in the Ethics of Human Enhancement." In: *Routledge Handbook on the Ethics of Human Enhancement*. Edited by Marcello Ienca and Fabrice Jotterand.

Leuenberger, Muriel. Forthcoming. "A Narrative Pattern-Theory of the Self." In: *Personhood, Self-Consciousness, and the First-Person Perspective*. Edited by Markus Hermann. Paderborn: Brill mentis.

## Academic Blog Articles (editor reviewed)

*Who gets to be a Person?* [Blog article](#) in the Practical Ethics blog *Ethics in the News* of the Oxford Uehiro Centre for Practical Ethics, 01/2023.

*The Authentic Liar*. [Blog article](#) in the Practical Ethics blog *Ethics in the News* of the Oxford Uehiro Centre for Practical Ethics, 01/2023. An adapted version of this post is forthcoming in *Think*.

*Simulate Your True Self*. [Blog article](#) in the Practical Ethics blog *Ethics in the News* of the Oxford Uehiro Centre for Practical Ethics, 12/2022. An adapted version of this post is forthcoming in *Think*.

*Track Thyself? Personal Information Technology and the Ethics of Self-knowledge.* [Blog article](#) in the Practical Ethics blog *Ethics in the News* of the Oxford Uehiro Centre for Practical Ethics, 06/2022.

### Peer-Reviewed Conferences

*How Direct-to-Consumer Neurotechnology Affects Identity.* Annual Meeting of the International Neuroethics Society, Montreal (CA), 11/2022.

*Technology, Personal Information and Identity.* Presentation at the Ethics of Socially Disruptive Technologies 2022 Conference, Oegstgeest (NL), 10/2022.

*Duty to Self-Track? Personal Information Technology and the Duty of Self-knowledge.* Presentation at the MANCEPT workshop on Duties to Oneself, Manchester (GB), 09/2022.

*A Narrative Pattern-Theory of the Self.* Presentation at the Heidelberg Workshop on Personhood, Self-Consciousness, and the First-Person Perspective, Heidelberg (GE), 08/2022.

*Memory Modification and Authenticity: A Narrativist Approach.* Presentation at International Neuroethics Society 2021 Annual Meeting, online, 11/2021.

*Memory Modification and Authenticity: A Narrativist Approach.* Presentation at Generative Episodic Memory: Interdisciplinary perspectives from psychology, neuroscience and philosophy Ph.D. symposium, online, 02/2021.

*Neural Interventions and the Narrative Self: Why Means Matter for Meanings.* Presentation at International Neuroethics Society 2020 Annual Meeting, online, 10/2020.

*Deep Brain Stimulation: Two Kinds of Effects on Authenticity.* Presentation at the workshop *The Ethics of Experimental Deep Brain Stimulation – Future Directions*, Oxford Uehiro Centre for Practical Ethics, Oxford (UK), 01/2020.

*Neural Interventions – Shaking the Foundations of Authenticity.* Poster presentation at International Neuroethics Society 2019 Annual Meeting, Chicago (USA), 10/2019.

*Narrative Authenticity and Deep Brain Stimulation.* Presentation at SINE – INS 11th International Scientific Conference on Neuroethics, San-Raffaele University, Milan (IT), 5/2019.

### Invited Talks

Conversation at the book launch of *Embodied Narratives: Protecting Identity Interests through Ethical Governance of Bioinformation* with the author Emily Postan and John Appleby, Masen Institute, Edinburgh (UK), 03/2023.

*How Personal Information Technology Impacts Identity.* Presentation at the Research Seminar of the Institute of Philosophy of Mind and Cognition, National Yang Ming Chiao Tung University, Taipei (TWN), online, 12/2022.

*Duties to the Unified Self.* Presentation at the Research Seminar of the Oxford Uehiro Centre for Practical Ethics, Oxford (UK), 11/2022.

*Bernard Williams & the demands of authenticity.* Bernard Williams Virtual Workshop with Matthew Bradly (Oxford), online, 01/2022.

*Fictions and the Narrative Self.* Workshop on *Varieties of Non-Propositional Content* with Elisabeth Camp (Rutgers), University of Basel, 6/2019.

*Genealogy and Rousseau's Second Discourse.* Workshop on *The Contingent World: Genealogy, Epistemology, Politics* with Amia Srinivasan (Oxford), University of Basel, 6/2018.

### Institutional Responsibilities

03/2022 – present	Elected member of the International Neuroethics Society ( <a href="#">INS</a> ) Membership Committee.
04/2020 – 10/2020	Representative of the Ph.D. students and assistants in an evaluation panel for the promotion of a professor at the University of Basel.
09/2015 – 06/2016	Member of the planning commission for study grants of the Munich Center for Technology in Society.
07/2014 – 04/2015	Organization committee for seminar days of the degree course.
09/2012 – 09/2013	Member of the audit committee of the Society of Nanoscience Students at the University of Basel.

### Teaching

01/2023	<i>Authenticity in Neuroethics.</i> Bioethics Special Study Thread for medical students, University of Oxford.
10/2022	<i>Authenticity in the Ethics of Human Enhancement.</i> MSt in Practical Ethics, Well-being, disability and enhancement module, University of Oxford.
06/2022	<i>Narrative Identity and Neural Interventions.</i> MSt in Practical Ethics, Neuroethics module, University of Oxford.
09/2019 – 12/2019	<i>Das narrative Selbst (The narrative self).</i> Proseminar, University of Basel.
03/2018	<i>Ethik für Nanowissenschaftler (Ethics for Nanoscientists).</i> Guest lecturer, University of Basel.

### Organization of Workshops

02/2022, 05/2022, 06/2022	Oxford Uehiro Centre Workshops in Practical Philosophy, co-organized with Aksel Sterri, University of Oxford.
06/2021	<i>Locke, Hume and Shepherd on Personal Identity</i> international workshop with Deborah Boyle, Marya Schechtman and Udo Thiel, co-organized with Manuel Fasko, Jelscha Schmid and Markus Wild, University of Basel (online).

## Outreach

Bitesize Ethics: *Authenticity and Neurointerventions*. Public talk as part of the [Festival of Arguments](#) organized by the Uehiro Centre for Practical Ethics, University of Oxford, 06/2022.

Member of the judging panel for the Uehiro Centre for [Practical Ethics and Responsibility Competition](#), a practical ethics video competition for children in secondary education, University of Oxford, 01/2022.

*Die Tiefenhirnstimulation*. Article in [fatum](#), a student magazine for philosophy of science, technology and society, Technical University of Munich, 07/2017.

Co-founding and responsibility for graphics of the Science Café [Auf Augenhöhe](#), Munich, 04/2014 – 05/2016.

## General Contributions to Science

Referee for *Neuroethics, Phenomenology and the Cognitive Sciences, Philosophical Explorations, Medicina Historica*.

Member of an expert workshop to gather input for the development of European guidelines on the use of non-invasive brain stimulation, part of the STIMCODE project (Horizon 2020), online, 11/2022.

*How to write a PhD funding application*. Presentation with Michael O’Leary in series of events for MA and doctoral students, University of Basel, 11/2019.

*Academic Writing with the Mumford Method*. Presentation with Nico Müller and Friederike Zenker organized by the student association of Philosophy, University of Basel, 05/2018.

## Active Memberships

Since 05/2022	Philosophische Gesellschaft Basel
Since 12/2019	Society for Women in Philosophy Switzerland
Since 07/2019	International Neuroethics Society

## Volunteering

01/2019 – 09/2021	Volunteer for the Red Cross in a mentorship and integration program supporting refugees and immigrants in various areas such as job search, homework, or learning German.
02/2018 – 08/2018	Volunteer for the project “ <a href="#">Offener Hörsaal</a> ” supporting refugees and immigrants to access University and contribute to social, professional, and lingual integration.

## **Personal Skills**

### Languages

German (native speaker)  
Swiss German (native speaker)  
English (native level)  
French (advanced reading level)  
Spanish (basics)  
Italian (basics)  
Portuguese (basics)

### IT

Writing: MS Word, Pages, LyX, Google Docs  
Presentations: MS PowerPoint, Keynote, Google Slides  
Design: InDesign, Photoshop, Gimp

## **References**

Upon request